departmental post the severance amount will be Rs. 20,000/ - after continuous employment of 15 years.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As regards the demand for pension, no Government sponsored social security scheme was found feasible when provision of payment of Severance Amount as a post-employment benefit was extended to Gramin Dak Sevaks. Government also considered the demand for granting of maternity leave to female GDSs but found not feasible.

(e) The scheme of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana is already in existence which aims at providing postal facilities to villages without a post office. Under this scheme a person nominated by the Panchayat is appointed as a Sanchar Kendra Agent (SKA) for a fixed monthly allowance for providing counter services and also for collection, conveyance and delivery of mail within Gram Panchayat where feasible. Commission is also paid for rendering additional services. The pre-requisites for a person to be nominated as Sanchar Kendra Agent are:

(i) Person should be a matriculate with age between 18 and 62 years.

(ii) Person should bear a good moral character and should have no criminal record.

**Software Technology Parks**

2342. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to set up software technology parks across the country during the ensuing financial year;

(b) if so, the number of such parks likely to be set up; State-wise;

(c) the details of the financial assistance to be sanctioned for the same;

(d) whether any technical assistance from the foreign collaboration is being taken or proposed to be taken in setting up the parks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The centres which are under different stages of implementation/ discussion with the concerned State Governments are detailed in Statement (*See* below).

(c) For setting up a Software, Technology Park, the State Government has to provide free land, built up area and financial support. Department of Information Technology provides seed money of Rs. 50 lakhs as grant-in-aid.

(d) and (e) No Technical assistance is being taken or proposed to be taken from foreign collaboration for setting up the Software Technology Parks.

***Statement***

*Centres which are under different stages of implementation/discussion with the concerned State Government*

| Sl. No. | State | STPI Centre |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Bihar | Patna |
| 2. | Goa | Goa |
| 3. | Haryana | Gurgaon |
| 4. | Haryana | Panchkhula |
| 5. | J & K | Jammu |
| 6. | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 7. | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | Gwalior |
| 9. | Maharashtra | Kolhapur |
| 10. | Manipur | Imphal |
| 11. | Meghalaya | Shillong |
| 12. | Punjab | Patiala |
| 13. | Rajasthan | Jodhpur |
| 14. | Sikkim | Gangtok |
| 15. | Tripura | Agartalla |
| 16. | Uttar Pradesh | Agra |
| 17. | Uttar Pradesh | Allahabad |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | Varanasi |
| 19. | West Bengal | Durgapur |
| 20. | West Bengal | Khadagpur |